

GALATIANS 6

Bear One Another's Burdens

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is **(Suddenly)** overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

- **Chuck Smith** tells the sweet story of Peter's restoration in his audio commentary... You know the story too. The Lord tells the Disciples that He will be arrested and that they all will abandon Him. Peter scolds the Lord telling Him he would even stay and die for Him. Jesus tells him that this very night Peter will deny Him three times... And Peter does just that... Peter is distraught and angry with himself. He quits his job as a Disciple and returns to his old fishing job. In Mark 16:7 an angel tells the Resurrection witnesses to go tell the Disciples **and Peter** that Jesus will meet them in Galilee "Just as He had told them..." Jesus finds them and asks Peter the same question... HOW MANY TIMES? THREE... Once for each of the denials, and without scolding him at all, Jesus restores Peter to emotional health!
- It seems that NOT being willing to help restore one another might be a worse temptation than falling into sin suddenly.
- Paul had just told the Galatians that the fruit of the Spirit is love and that love is described as gentle, peaceful, and with lots of patience. THAT is how he wants us to help restore one another... GENTLY!

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- This verse is very dear to me and I will tell you why... At a very low point in my ministry-life I reluctantly reached out to a fellow-local CC Pastor. He sat with me and listened to my heart and then... read this verse to me. He then convinced me to share my burden with other Pastors, which of course I did not want to do.

- I was being prideful; he was being wise and I DID Indeed share that burden and made some very good friends as a result. SO... it always reminds me of that season when I read this verse every year. **NOW...**
- What is the Law of Christ and how do we obey it?
- **Matthew 22:36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
- Who just thought, "**Who is my neighbor?**" (I thought that this week while preparing this sermon.) When asked this in Luke 10, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. SO... How were the good Samaritan and the Jew from Jerusalem neighbors? LOVE!

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- NLT - If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. **OUCH!**
- **GUZIK** - As much as anything, pride is *self-focus*. Pride doesn't necessarily say, "I'm *better* than you are." Pride simply says "I'm more *important* than you are, so I deserve more of my own attention and love than you do." Instead, Biblical humility tells us, "I'm nothing but you are something. Let me care about your burdens and needs."

4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

- **NLT** - Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. **IE – Just love one another!**

5 For each one shall bear (**responsibility for**) his own load.

GIVE WHERE YOUR FED

6 Let him who is taught the word share (**Support**) in all good things with him who teaches.

- Here's what I think this means – Pray for and bless those who teach you and who HAVE taught you.
- Send a card, or a gift card to one of your past pastors or teachers or counselors or Parole Officers... Thank them! Bless them! **DO IT!**

HERE IS A FAMOUS VERSE

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

- Any gardeners here besides Sammy & Shanelle? Galina... Vijay...
- If you want sunflowers, what kind of seeds must you plant?
- What % of the world's sunflower seeds does California provide? 25%
- Plant gentleness in your family...Patience... Forgiveness... Love!

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

- Beloved, Our enemy has set out many traps for us to happen upon... We must make a covenant with our eyes (Like Job did) that we will NOT look long at sin... We won't listen to it... We won't read it... We won't laugh at it... We won't tolerate even a little sin.
- Sow to the Spirit! Read spiritual things... Listen to spiritual things... Look at spiritual things... **YOU WILL THANK ME LATER!**
- If you are hearing THIS message – YOU are sowing to the Spirit!

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- **COURSON** – “I’ve been sowing good seed, but I’m not seeing much return,” you might say. Hang in there, saint. You will reap in due season if you don’t give up.
- **TO:** Those of you who have been waiting on the Lord to answer a prayer... Don’t give up!
- **TO:** Those of you who have been waiting on the Lord to “come through and save the day....” **DO NOT GIVE UP!**

After learning that his young nephew was killed in a car accident, Song Writer, Don Moen searched for some way to help bring comfort to his grieving family even as he struggled with his own sorrow. While reading Isaiah 43, he asked God to give him something that would bring hope to the family in the middle of a hopeless situation. As he prayed, the words for “God Will Make A Way,” came to mind. He works in ways we cannot see. He will make a way for me.

For a while, that song remained a private message for his family. But slowly, he began sharing it with others and soon found that it was a message for the whole church. A message to cling to when “there seems to be no way.”

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY!

BE KIND

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- **Um...** This means to be kind to others... Do good to all men. Be generous. Buy Girl Scout cookies whenever possible. Drop a dollar in the homeless fundraiser's box... Greet the Teen Challenge fund raisers and ask to pray with them... Never pass a Salvation Army Bell Ringer without at least a good word and a dollar for them.
- Go online and send \$ to Samaritan's purse every time there is a catastrophic event in the world. You can send 5\$.
- Don't get Matthew 25'd when you get to heaven! IE, Be a sheep, NOT a stingy goat! **DO GOOD!**

FINAL WARNING AND BENEDICTION

11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

- NLT - Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised want to look good to others. They don't want to be persecuted for teaching that the cross of Christ alone can save.
- There was a high price to pay to Preach that Christ alone was necessary for salvation and NOT religion.

SINFUL BRAGGING RIGHTS

13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, (**It is impossible to**) but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

GILL - Their view in bringing persons to submit to circumcision was, that they might have occasion to glory among the Jews and boast to them of the numbers of proselytes they brought, and of the service they did to Judaism, and so increase their fame and glory among them.

PROPER BRAGGING

14 But God forbid that I should boast **except in the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a **new creation**. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

- **Ah, Beloved, THIS is why we worship so much! To brag on the Lord!**

17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

- Paul had taken his stand – AND he had the scars left from people trying to kill him for it...
- Paul vows to waste no more time on religious arguments.

FINAL BLESSING

18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.